

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A manually operable input apparatus for a portable electronic processing device, defining a plurality of regions each representing a respective data item, said manually operable input apparatus comprising a plurality of sheets configured to produce a response to a mechanical interaction, and a stand for supporting said electronic processing device; wherein

said sheets are configured to be foldable into a wrapped configuration around said electronic processing device to provide a protective cover,

and said sheets are configured to be foldable through at least one of said plurality of regions.

2. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input apparatus is a keyboard.

3. (Previously Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said processing device is a hand-held computer, a mobile telephone or portable audio equipment.

4. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein said apparatus is connected to said electronic ~~processor~~ processing device by a ~~connection~~ connecting means.

5. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said connection means further comprises an interface circuit configured to apply voltages to one or more of said sheets and to convey positional data to said electronic processing device.

6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim ~~7~~ 5, wherein said electronic processing device is programmed to correlate said positional ~~information~~ data with look up tables for converting positional ~~information~~ data received from said interface circuit into a presentation in the form of alpha numeric text.

7. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said ~~connections~~ connecting means is configured so as to retain said electronic processing device connected thereto during ~~the~~ bending operations.

8. (Currently Amended) A manually operable input apparatus according to claim 4 and a portable electronic processing device in combination, wherein said ~~connection~~ connecting means connecting said apparatus to said electronic processing device is foldable to allow said electronic processing device and said input apparatus to be mutually arranged in an operational configuration in which said electronic processing device is supported in a position spaced apart from said input apparatus, and to be reconfigured into a wrapped configuration, in which said electronic processing device is enveloped by said input apparatus, by the steps of

folding said connecting means about a first axis to an intermediate position in which said electronic processor processing device is received on a surface of said input apparatus, and

bending said input apparatus about a second axis non-parallel with said first axis and a third axis non-parallel with said first axis.

9. (Currently Amended) A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in claim 8, wherein said electronic processor processing device remains connected to said ~~connection~~ connecting means during said folding operations.

10. (Currently Amended) A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination according to claim 8, wherein said second axis and said third axis are disposed in a substantially parallel relationship to one another.

11. (Currently Amended) A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in claim 8, wherein said second bending axis and said third bending axis divide ~~the detector~~ said input apparatus into a central portion, a first lateral substantially planar portion and a second lateral substantially planar portion.

12. (Currently Amended) A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in claim 11, wherein, in the intermediate position, said electronic ~~processor~~ processing device is received by said central portion and said first lateral portion bends about a first edge of said electronic ~~processor~~ processing device along said second axis and said second portion extends about a second edge of said electronic ~~processor~~ processing device along said third axis to form said wrapped configuration.

13. (Currently Amended) A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in claim 12, wherein said first lateral portion and said second lateral portion of said input apparatus are secured in the wrapped configuration by a securing means.

14. (Currently Amended) A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in claim 13, wherein said securing means is a ~~loop and hook arrangement~~ hook and loop fastening system such as ~~Velcro~~ VELCRO®.

15. (Currently Amended) A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in claim 8, wherein, in said intermediate position, said ~~processor~~ electronic processing device is operable independently of said input apparatus.

16. (Currently Amended) A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in claim 11, wherein said electronic processing device is supported ~~on a self-erecting support mechanism in~~ by said stand in said operational configuration.

17. (Currently Amended) A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in claim 16, wherein said ~~mechanism~~ stand comprises a flexible fabric cable having electrical connection elements contained therein ~~and sections of a supporting plastic~~.

18. (Currently Amended) A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in claim 17, wherein said ~~sections of supporting plastic are hinged~~ stand comprises hinged support portions to facilitate ~~the self-~~ erection of said ~~support~~ stand.

19. (Currently Amended) A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in claim 18, wherein said ~~support portions~~ sections of plastic hinge about said ~~plastic~~ flexible fabric cable.

20. (Currently Amended) A manually operable input apparatus according to claim 1 and a portable electronic processing device in combination, wherein said input apparatus is permanently attached to an edge of said ~~electronic processor~~ processing device and is configured to allow mutual arrangement in an operable configuration, in which the input apparatus extends from said edge of said ~~electronic processor~~ processing device, and reconfiguration into a the wrapped configuration in which said input apparatus is wrapped around said ~~electronic processor~~ processing device.

21. (Previously Amended) A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in claim 2, wherein said input apparatus is constructed from fabric.

22. (Previously Amended) A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in claim 2, wherein said input apparatus comprises a membrane keyboard.

23. (Previously Amended) A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in claim 2, wherein said keyboard surface is configured so as to facilitate the bending of the keyboard.

24. (Currently Amended) A manually operable input apparatus for a portable electronic processing device, defining a plurality of regions each representing a respective data item, said manually operable input apparatus comprising at least one fabric sheet and at least one membrane sheet, said sheets being configured so as to

produce an output in response to a mechanical interaction, said input apparatus further comprising a stand for supporting said electronic processing device; wherein

said sheets are configured to be foldable into a wrapped configuration around said device to provide a protective cover,

and said sheets are configured to be foldable through at least one of said plurality of regions.

25. (New) A manually operable input apparatus for a portable electronic processing device, defining a plurality of regions each representing a respective data item, said manually operable input apparatus comprising a plurality of fabric sheets configured to produce a response to a mechanical interaction, said sheets comprising conductive fibres, wherein:

said sheets are configured to be foldable into a wrapped configuration around said electronic processing device to provide a protective cover.

26. (New) A manually operable input apparatus for a portable electronic processing device, defining a plurality of regions each representing a respective data item, said input apparatus comprising a plurality of sheets configured to produce a response to a mechanical interaction, and a stand for supporting said electronic processing device in a different plane to that of said input apparatus, said stand comprising connecting means for releasably engaging said electronic processing device with said input apparatus, wherein:

said sheets are configured to be foldable into a wrapped configuration around said electronic processing device to provide a protective cover; and

said connecting means are configured to retain an electrical connection between said input apparatus and said electronic processing device during folding.